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Tuesday, January 23, 2018 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

THANK YOU, HOWIE ROSEMAN

For building the machine that roared over the NFC. 15

Thyroid Awareness Month: ICYMI, this little gland is super important. 14

Another daring season of 'Another Period.' 11

SUPER SWINDLE?

Eagles fans should be ready to part ways with some serious cash to get inside U.S. Bank Stadium if they want to watch Super Bowl LII in person. 6-7

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION GETTY IMAGES

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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

EVAN MACY, SPORTS EDITOR

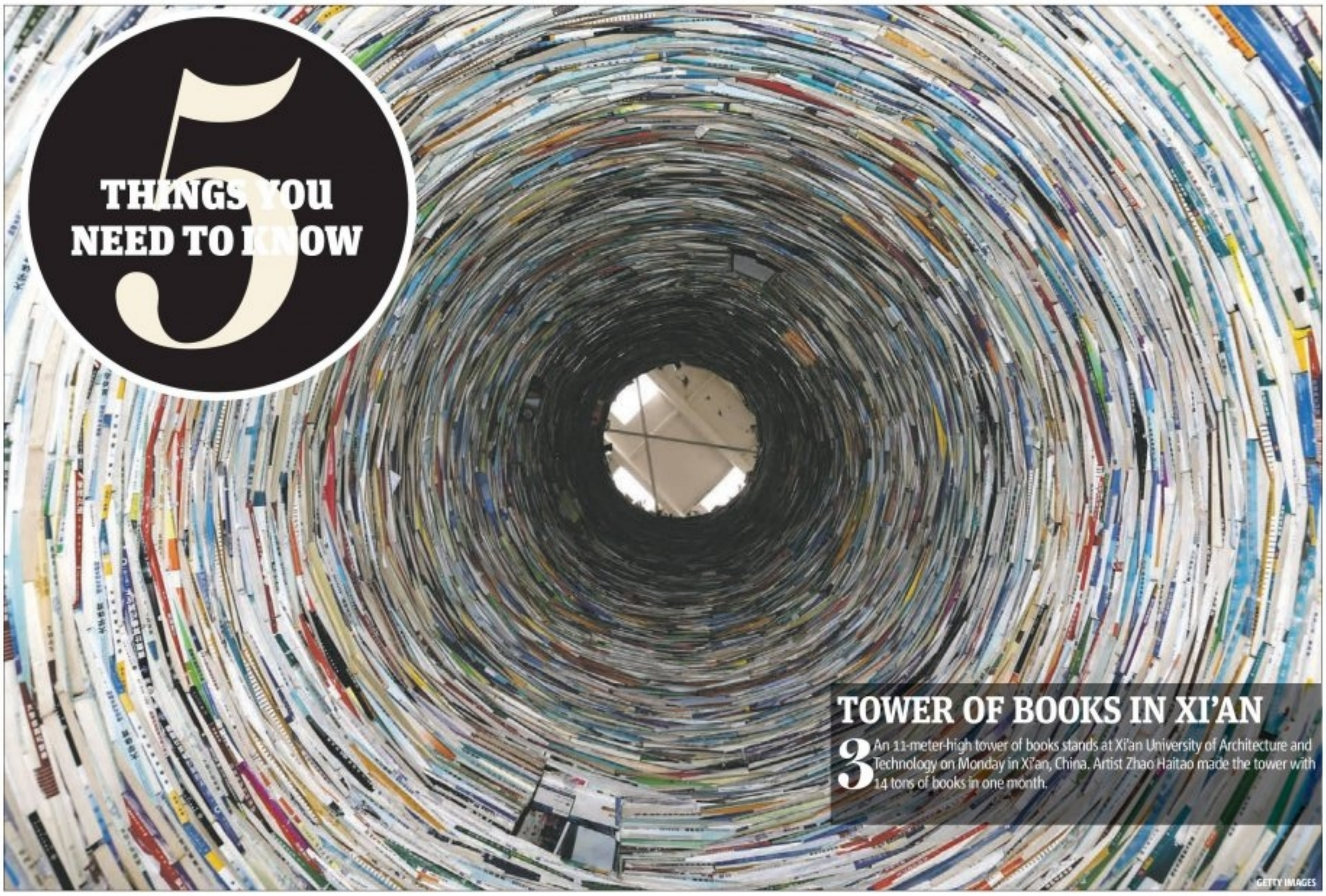
We've had a few nights to sleep on it and it still feels great. And the more I think about the matchup against the Patriots the better I feel about it. Today Glen Macnow takes a look at the magic of Howie Roseman and I pontificate about the natural underdog fit between this Eagles team and our blue-collar city. For more, turn to page 15-16 or visit **metro.us/sports.**

PHILLY REFINERY DETAILS BANKRUPTCY PLAN

Philadelphia Energy Solutions, owner of the largest East Coast refinery, said on Monday its plan to get out of bankruptcy hinges on whether it can shed existing biofuel costs under the country's renewable fuel laws. The plan revives a debate between U.S. refiners and ethanol producers over the nation's renewables policy, and could spur actions from other struggling refiners should the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration allow PES to reduce its biofuel obligations. The Trump Administration could also wade deeper into the fray should the Pennsylvania refinery, which has some 1,100 workers, face closure. PES told its employees on Sunday it would file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Reuters reported. In its bankruptcy filing on Monday, the company said it does not have enough cash to comply with the laws.

HOUSE PASSES MEASURE TO END SHUTDOWN

The House of Representatives passed a short-term measure on Monday to fund the federal government through Feb. 8 and end a three-day government shutdown. By a 266-150 vote, the Republican-led House quickly followed the Senate and approved the stopgap bill, which includes a six-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) but not protections for Dreamer immigrants sought by Democrats. The funding measure will now go to President Donald Trump, who has said he will sign it into law, ending the government shutdown. Earlier on Monday, the Senate voted to fund the federal government through Feb. 8, which then moved the bill to the House where it also passed. During shutdowns, nonessential government employees are furloughed, or placed on temporary unpaid leave. ***Read more on page 9.***



TOWER OF BOOKS IN XI'AN

3 An 11-meter-high tower of books stands at Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology on Monday in Xi'an, China. Artist Zhao Haitao made the tower with 14 tons of books in one month.

GETTY IMAGES

NETFLIX SEES SURGE IN SUBSCRIBERS

4 Netflix Inc. snagged two million more subscribers than Wall Street expected in the final three months of last year, tripling profits at the online video service that is burning money on new programming to dominate internet television around the world. The results drove Netflix to a market capitalization of more than $100 billion for the first time. After signing up more than half of all U.S. broadband households, Netflix is building its customer base in 190 countries by spending billions on programming. Netflix picked up 6.36 million subscribers in international markets from October through December, when it released new seasons of critically acclaimed shows "Stranger Things" and "The Crown." That topped Wall Street expectations of 5.1 million, according to FactSet.

POPE APOLOGIZES FOR SEXUAL ABUSE COMMENTS

5 Pope Francis, in an extremely rare act of self-criticism, apologized to victims of clerical sex abuse on Sunday, acknowledging he had "wounded many" in comments defending a Chilean bishop who is under scrutiny. But while the pope said he was sorry for his choice of words and tone of voice when he testily answered a reporter's question last Thursday in Chile, he also said he was certain that the prelate, Juan Barros, was innocent. "I have to apologize," an unusually contrite pope told reporters aboard the plane returning to Rome from a weeklong trip to Chile and Peru, saying he realized he had "wounded many people who were abused." "I apologize to them if I hurt them without realizing it, but it was a wound that I inflicted without meaning to," he said. "It pains me very much."

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Andrew Tornetta is charged with attacking a state police horse before Sunday's Eagles game. PPD

Another Eagles fan punches a police horse

For the second time in recent weeks, a police horse was attacked by an Eagles fan.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The Eagles bested the Vikings on Sunday, but one of their own fans embarrassed the team before the game even started by allegedly attacking a Philadelphia police horse.

It's the second such attack in just one week.

Andrew Tornetta, of North Wales, allegedly punched a police horse, "Samson," and the Pennsylvania State Police corporal riding it. Tornetta was with fellow fans in a parking lot off of Pattison Avenue around 3:15 p.m., police said, when a mounted state police corporal was attempting to disperse the crowd.

"While mounted atop the horse, the corporal began to escort him away from the crowd, again telling him to leave," a police report stated. "The offender became verbally combative and maneuvered himself out of his jacket and was grabbed by his sweatshirt to maintain control due to him being under arrest."

That's when the man allegedly punched the corporal's horse twice on the right front shoulder, and hit the corporal in the face, before allegedly shedding some identifying garments and walking away into the crowd to flee, police said.

Samson was reportedly uninjured. Tornetta was quickly identified and taken into custody. Now he's charged with aggravated assault and related charges.

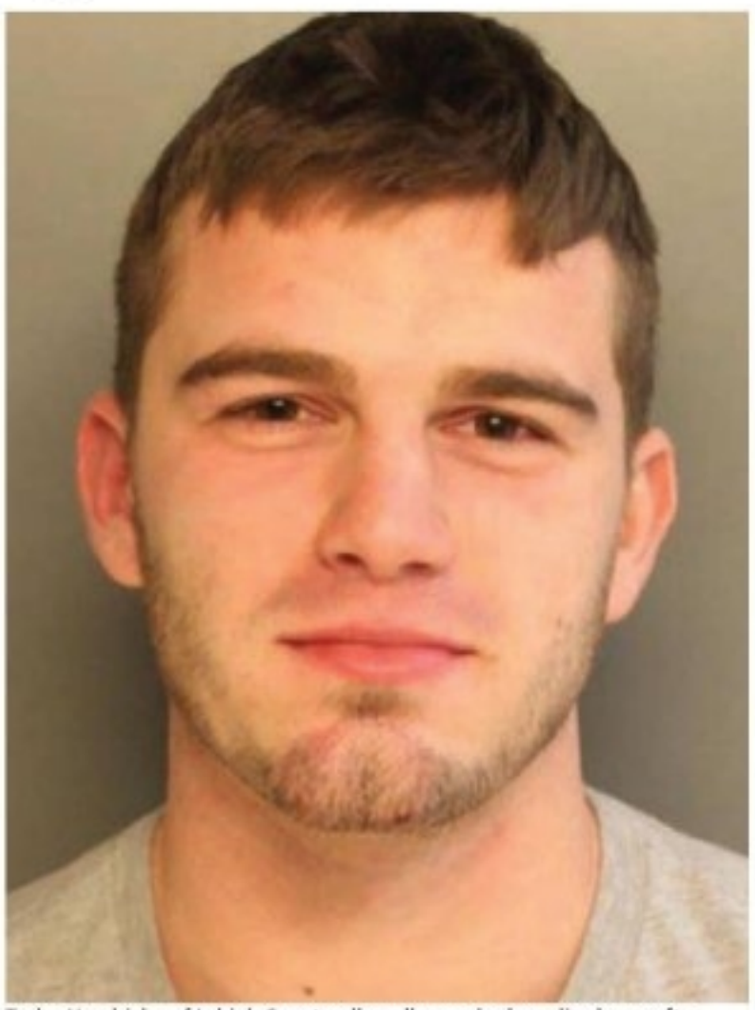
It's the second such assault in one week. Last week, right outside the Linc, a fan approached a police horse and attacked it without apparent provocation.

Taylor Hendricks, 22, of Whitehall, was allegedly ejected from the Jan. 13 Eagles home victory over the Atlanta Falcons "because he was intoxicated and did not possess a ticket," a police report stated.

He then for unknown reasons attacked a Philadelphia Police Mounted Unit police horse and office.

"After the male was ejected he walked over to a mounted officer and began punching the horse in the face, neck and shoulder area," the report said.

Neither the horse nor the officer were injured, police said. Hendricks is facing charges of assault on police and cruelty to animals.



Taylor Hendricks, of Lehigh County, allegedly punched a police horse after being ejected from an Eagles game. PPD

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- EDUCATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT -

Why Haven't Senior Homeowners Been Told These Facts?

Keep reading if you own a home in the U.S. and were born before 1955.

It's a well-known fact that for many senior citizens in the U.S. their home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 50% of their total net worth.

Yet, according to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than **6.1 trillion dollars** of unused home equity.[1] With people now living longer than ever before and home prices back up again, ignoring this **"hidden wealth"** may prove to be short sighted.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage or "HECM" loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

However, today, there are still millions of eligible homeowners who could benefit from this FHA-insured loan but may simply not be aware of this "**retirement secret**."

Some homeowners think HECM loans sound "too good to be true." After all, you get the cash you need out of your home but you have no more monthly mortgage payments.

NO MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?[2] EXTRA CASH?

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan;[2] however the homeowners are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Another fact many are not aware of is that HECM reverse mortgages first took hold when President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage Bill into law 29 years ago in order to help senior citizens remain in their homes.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

That's a shame because HECM loans are helping many senior homeowners live a better life.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 90% of their clients are satisfied with their loans.

While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners.

FACT: In 1988, President Reagan signed an FHA bill that put HECM loans into law.

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for any purpose. Many people use the money to save on interest charges by paying off credit cards or other high-interest loans. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a "safety net" for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make an informed decision. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a free 2018 HECM loan Information Kit and free Educational DVD by calling American Advisors Group toll-free at **1-800-791-1598**.

At no cost or obligation, the professionals at AAG can help you find out if you qualify and also answer common questions such as:

1. What's the government's role?
2. How much money might I get?
3. Who owns the home after I take out a HECM loan?

You may be pleasantly surprised by what you discover when you call AAG for more information today.

[1]Source: http://reversemortgagedaily.com/2016/06/21/seniors-home-equity-grows-to-6-trillion-reverse-mortgage-opportunity. [2]If you qualify and your loan is approved, a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) must pay off any existing mortgage(s). With a HECM loan, no monthly mortgage payment is required. A HECM increases the principal mortgage loan amount and decreases home equity (it is a negative amortization loan). AAG works with other lenders and financial institutions that offer HECMs. To process your request for a loan, AAG may forward your contact information to such lenders for your consideration of HECM programs that they offer. When the loan is due and payable, some or all of the equity in the property no longer belongs to borrowers, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan with interest from other proceeds. AAG charges an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium, closing costs and servicing fees (added to the balance of the loan). The balance of the loan grows over time and AAG charges interest on the balance. Interest is not tax-deductible until the loan is partially or fully repaid. Borrowers are responsible for paying property taxes and homeowner's insurance (which may be substantial). We do not establish an escrow account for disbursements of these payments. A set-aside account can be set up to pay taxes and insurance and may be required in some cases. Borrowers must occupy home as their primary residence and pay for ongoing maintenance; otherwise the loan becomes due and payable. The loan also becomes due and payable when the last borrower, or eligible non-borrowing surviving spouse, dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, defaults on taxes or insurance payments, or does not otherwise comply with the loan terms. American Advisors Group (AAG) is headquartered at 3800 W. Chapman Ave., 3rd & 7th Floors, Orange CA, 92868. (Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Banking 28356),. V2017.08.23_OR

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

How to get Super Bowl tickets to see the Eagles vs Patriots in Minneapolis

A complete guide for fans trying to get to Minneapolis for Super Bowl LII.

EVAN MACY
evan.macy@metro.us

There is no easy or cheap way to get tickets to Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis on February 4.

The league says it gives 17.5 percent of the ticket supply to the NFC Champions, the Eagles, and another 17.5 percent to the Patriots. The best way to assure yourself a seat is to be a season ticket holder — and if you're one of them you already know if you have tickets. The Eagles held a lottery hours after Sunday night's NFC Championship concluded to give their most loyal fans a chance to get tickets at face value. That value is reportedly in the $950 range before any fees get applied.

There is no way for non-season ticket holders to get to the game at face value. The next best way to get tickets on primesports.com — which offers complete packages with travel and hotel rooms. It also allows purchasers to simply get tickets and make their own accommodations reservations.

It's pricey. The cheapest tickets available are more than $4,800 for the upper level. This is slightly cheaper than comparable tickets on stubhub.com.

The Super Bowl's official website is selling packages as well, starting at $6,599 and ranging into the $13,000 range. Vividseats.com has a 20-person suite that only Eagles fans like Mike Trout or Bradley Cooper could afford — $405,955.

Where do the other tickets go? Well, the league office gets to keep a quarter of them, each other NFL team gets 1.2 percent of them except the Vikings, that get five percent as the host team.

The secondary markets are expected to feast on the big-time matchup between New England and Philadelphia, with tickets in the $9,000 range being the norm, according to CNNMoney.com. Believe it or not, the Vikings losing to the Eagles actually hurt the value of tickets by around $500, as Minnesota was vying to be the first team ever to play for a championship in its home stadium.

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For those really desperate to get to Minnesota that weekend, Spirit and Frontier offer flights in the $300-$400 range, but the itineraries sometimes include two layovers. GETTY IMAGES

Airfare
Flying to Minneapolis is similarly expensive. Direct flights through major carriers like Delta and American are fetching over $1,000 for a round-trip seat for fans looking to fly between Thursday and Monday. If you have more time to waste, tickets are a few hundred dollars cheaper on Tuesday or Wednesday prior and after the game.

For those really desperate to get to Minnesota that weekend, Spirit and Frontier also offer flights in the $300-$400 range but the itineraries sometimes include two layovers; flights to places like Fort Lauderdale, New Orleans or Las Vegas; and carry baggage fees of up to $88 each way. Driving from Philly is about a 1,700-mile trek — which can be made for around $250 in two days with a cheap hotel in the middle — plus gas.

Hotels
The minute it became clear the Eagles would be the Patriots' opponent in Super Bowl LII, hotel prices surged and sold out nearly instantly. Without trekking hours outside the city, rates are about $600 a night within the city limits if available at all; Airbnb rates are also astronomical and rare. Local station CBS4 in the Twin Cities says the prices are 10 times their normal rates.

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Democrats hold only five of the state's 18 congressional districts despite Pennsylvania's status as an electoral swing state. GETTY IMAGES

Pennsylvania court orders new congressional map due to gerrymandering

The new map must be submitted by Feb. 9.

Pennsylvania's top court on Monday threw out the state's congressional map, ruling that Republican legislators unlawfully sought partisan advantage, and gave them three weeks to rework it in a decision that could boost Democratic chances of retaking the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a 5-2 decision, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled the electoral map violated the state's constitution by manipulating the district boundaries to marginalize Democratic voters, a practice called partisan gerrymandering.

Democrats, who hold only five of the state's 18 congressional districts despite Pennsylvania's status as an electoral swing state, hope to regain control of the House in the November midterm elections by flipping 24 seats now held by Republicans nationwide.

A new map could give Democratic candidates a chance to capture as many as half a dozen Republican seats in Pennsylvania alone, with national polls showing voters strongly favoring Democrats in 2018.

The court's five Democratic members said the congressional map "clearly, plainly and palpably violates the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." Both Republican justices dissented.

The court's two-page order said the legislature has until Feb. 9 to submit a new map to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, who would have until Feb. 15 to sign off. If those deadlines pass without an agreement, the court said it would adopt its own boundaries.

Experts have held up Pennsylvania as one of the most extreme examples of gerrymandering, pointing to bizarrely shaped districts that have earned nicknames like "Goofy kicking Donald Duck." The Republican-controlled legislature created the current map in 2011, after the 2010 U.S. census.

The gerrymandered lines have been worth two or three additional seats to Pennsylvania Republicans, according to Michael Li, a redistricting expert at New York University.

The state Senate president, Joe Scarnati, and majority leader, Jake Corman, both Republicans, called the court's deadline "impossible" and said they would request a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It is clear that with this ruling the court is attempting to bypass the Constitution and the legislative process and legislate themselves, directly from the bench," the two lawmakers said in a statement.

But the legal challenge, filed by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, relied on the state Constitution, not the U.S. Constitution, and lawyers for the plaintiffs said the U.S. Supreme Court has no jurisdiction over the case.

"It's well established that the United States Supreme Court does not review decisions of state force that exclusively construe state law," attorney Stanton Jones said.

The U.S. Supreme Court is already weighing whether to set a legal standard for partisan gerrymandering in two cases out of Wisconsin and Maryland. The court is expected to rule by the end of June in both cases.

Monday's decision could encourage similar state-court challenges elsewhere, said Li, the redistricting expert.

"It shows there may be a second front in the war against gerrymandering that does not depend on what the U.S. Supreme Court does or does not do in the Wisconsin and Maryland cases," Li said.

The plaintiffs had argued the map violates the Pennsylvania Constitution's guarantees of free expression and equal protection. The court's order did not specify how the map runs afoul of the law but said a full opinion will be released in the future.

The March special election for a vacant U.S. House seat in western Pennsylvania is not affected, the court said.

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Government shutdown fizzles on spending, immigration deal in Congress

Some liberal groups were infuriated by the decision to reopen the government. GETTY IMAGES

Tens of thousands of federal workers had begun closing down operations for lack of funding on Monday, the first weekday since the shutdown began.

Congress voted on Monday to end a three-day U.S. government shutdown, approving another short-term funding bill as Democrats accepted promises from Republicans for a broad debate later on the future of young illegal immigrants.

The fourth temporary funding bill since October easily passed the Senate and the House of Representatives. That sent it to the White House, which said President Donald Trump was expected to sign the bill, a product chiefly of negotiations among Senate leaders.

Enactment by Trump of the bill will allow the government to reopen fully on Tuesday and keep the lights on through Feb. 8, when Congress will have to revisit the budget and immigration policy, two disparate issues that have become closely linked.

The House approved the funding bill by a vote of 266 -150 just hours after it passed the Senate by a vote of 81-18.

Trump's attempts to negotiate an end to the shutdown with Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer collapsed on Friday in recriminations and fingerpointing. The Republican president took a new swipe at Democrats as he celebrated the Senate's pact.

"I am pleased that Democrats in Congress have come to their senses," Trump said in a statement. "We will make a long term deal on immigration if and only if it's good for the country."

Immigration and the budget are entangled because of Congress' failure last year to approve a budget on time by Oct. 1, just weeks after Trump summarily ordered an end by March to Obama-era legal protections for young immigrants known as Dreamers.

The roughly 700,000 young people were brought to the United States illegally as children, mainly from Mexico and Central America. They mostly grew up in the United States.

Former President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program gave the Dreamers legal protections and shielded them from deportation.

Democrats, as a condition of supporting a new spending stopgap, demanded a resolution of the uncertain future Trump created for the Dreamers with his DACA order last year.

But Democratic leaders, worried about being blamed for the disruptive shutdown that resulted, relented in the end and accepted a pledge by Republicans to hold a debate later over the fate of the Dreamers and related immigration issues.

The shutdown undercut Trump's self-crafted image as a dealmaker who would repair the broken culture in Washington.

It forced Trump to cancel a weekend trip to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and created uncertainty around his scheduled trip this week to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The U.S. government cannot fully operate without funding bills that are voted in Congress regularly. Washington has been hampered by frequent threats of a shutdown in recent years as the two parties fight over spending, immigration and other issues. The last U.S. government shutdown was in 2013.

REUTERS

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Blair tapped into her fears for the horror-comedy. MOMENTUM PICTURES

Selma Blair goes punk rock for 'Mom and Dad'

Chatting with the actress about her latest film, repressed fears and laughing in the face of chaos.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

From its insane premise — which sees parents trying to kill their children for an unknown reason — to its shocking moments of violence and gore, everything about "Mom and Dad" is outrageous.

"It's a punk rock movie," Selma Blair says over the phone. The 45-year-old, who stars alongside Nicolas Cage in the film, says that's what attracted her to the movie in the first place, too.

"In this time when there are so many boundaries, because people are trying not to offend, this was just something that was so crazy that it seemed beyond offending everyone," she says.

Blair also recognizes that "Mom and Dad" explores some very probing themes.

"There's a heavy aspect to the movie about this kind of soullessness that can happen to parents," she says. "My character really wants to be a good mom, and it means everything to her. Being ignored by your kids doesn't make your mother a murderer normally, but in this strange world, this horrible thing happens."

While Blair says the film was certainly unnerving, she stops short of calling it a full-on horror film.

"I could almost show my son," she says. "I mean because of the language and the idea, I wouldn't show my son. I'm a better mother than that. But there's no image in there that's so grotesque it would haunt you. It's just the idea is terribly disturbing."

In order to do "Mom and Dad" justice, Blair tapped into the purveying sense of fear that's currently permeating across the world.

"We all have repressed fears. I also think trying to do the right thing all the time can go against our instincts as people," she says. "It's obvious that people are more afraid than ever. Every single person I talk to is scared s—tless right now.

"This film allowed me a huge laugh of release," she continues, "because I was like, 'OK. This is what's in the huge spinning world of my mind.' We're all thinking of horror. Or [that] we're all going to die. Or [about] the ethics of our president.

"Every single person I talk to is scared s—tless right now."

"People are terrified," she continues. "And it was deeply entertaining to just have a couple of laughs in the face of this scream."

You can see for yourself if "Mom and Dad" is as therapeutic as it is scary and funny, as it's just been released in select cinemas and is also available on VOD and Digital HD.

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Here's to another daring season of 'Another Period'

In another star-studded season, the Bellacourts are, as ever, up to no good. ALI GOLDSTEIN/COMEDY CENTRAL

Chatting with stars Riki Lindhome and Natasha Leggero about Trump, the Gilded Age and the long lasting impact of "Dynasty."

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
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"Another Period" — whose third season premieres Tuesday, January 23 on Comedy Central — is likely one of the best shows you're missing out on. The whip-smart series is very "Downton Abbey" meets "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," then stuffed to the brim with satirical allusions to power, sexism and politics. And it's all thanks to stars Riki Lindhome and Natasha Leggero, who also helm the series as creators and writers. And neither of them take prisoners.

For example: Even though it's set in the Gilded Age, like many other comedy series of the last year, the election of President Trump casts a dark (albeit hilarious) shadow. "You should have been in our writer's room when we had to change our whole season when Trump became president," Leggero says.

"The problem with making fun of Trump is that there's a new, fresh hell every day. If you started writing an episode about Girther-gate, it would just go away in a day, and he would do something else awful."

Still, this season you can expect the requisite amount of Trump adjacent stuff — just, not really on purpose. "There's a sort of Roy Moore-esque storyline that we actually wrote before any of it happened," Lindhome says.

Still, even with those heavy themes, "Another Period" manages to be a delight. A super funny, well-constructed, and horribly overlooked delight. And the best part? It's rife with physical comedy.

"We are obsessed with 'Dynasty,'" Leggero says. (Think: the original, not the "Gossip Girl"-lite reboot.) "If you watch 'Dynasty,' they have all of these compilations of them dragging each other through clothes racks and swamps. Our director would get annoyed with us and be like, 'What is this 'Dynasty'-style cat fight? Do we really need this?'" she laughs.

"We just really want to do a fight in a fountain," Lindhome says. Here's hoping their dream comes true.

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Stand-up comedy finds a

Brian Isley, "South Jersey's Funniest Man," will kick off a series of shows in Center City.

MIKE FENN
letters@metro.us

Brian Isley, "South Jersey's Funniest Man," teams up with Starving Artist Prevention to bring stand-up comedy to the Drake. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

It's no secret that the Philadelphia comedy community is thriving. Local comedians and even their nationally-known counterparts are constantly taking the stages of the city's numerous clubs, theaters, and other venues (even bars) to hone their craft in front of appreciative—yet honest—audiences.

Now, one Center City Philadelphia location aims to be the next comedy hotspot, joining the likes of Helium, PHIT and Good Good Comedy Theatre in bringing local stand-up comedy to the city's center stage.

Behind the famed Kimmel Center, the ground floor of the 32-story Drake building will be the latest comedy stage in the city. On Saturday, Jan. 27, the comedy production company Starving Artist Prevention will hold its 17th show in the building's intimate Drake Room. Steven Ziegler, one of the company's co-producers, is eager to work within the historic Art Deco building and its pristine location.

"Our shows at the

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new home at the Drake

Isley was named South Jersey's Funniest Man by the Courier-Post.

Drake will help us to create more of a presence within the city limits, which is my goal with this location logistically," Ziegler said. "Audiences can always expect a quality show that delivers tons of laugh while elevating deserving 'local' comics to center stage."

He added that future shows at the Drake will move to the Proscenium Theater at the Drake.

The headliner on the Jan. 27 show will be none other than Brian Isley, recently coined "South Jersey's Funniest Man." Isley, who is also host of the podcast NBA Panel and a writer for boomboxlife.com, is currently working on his debut album, which will combine his stand-up comedy with bits from his podcasting experience. With the show, the producers are hoping to capture a vibe similar to that of Richard Pryor's much-respected stand-up special "Live & Smokin'."

"Our experience with Isley has been great all around," Ziegler said. "The feedback I received of him being an excellent storyteller and a hilarious comedian on the first show was echoed by the laughs in the crowd when he headlined recently. For his show, his talent will shine as he is not only performing twice, but is rumored to be performing two completely different sets. This is what I love about comedy."

Despite scoring the coveted stage in the middle of downtown, Ziegler and Starving Artist Prevention will ensure that all areas of Philadelphia are covered. On Feb. 15, the company will make its debut at Chuck's Alibi in Northeast Philadelphia, for the first in what Ziegler hopes will be a monthly showcase. It will be co-headlined by local comedians Shane Gillis and Chris Cotton.

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Could be your thyroid

The thyroid functions as the conductor of important systems in the body, from metabolism to menstruation. ISTOCK

Here's how to know if you have a thyroid problem and how to get treatment.

KATE MOONEY
kate.mooney@metro.us

You've probably heard of the thyroid, but it's less likely that you know what it is or how it actually functions in the body. The two-inch, butterfly-shaped gland, located in the neck just below the Adam's apple, secretes hormones that help regulate important systems in the body, including temperature, metabolism, heart rate and menstruation.

When too much or too little of these hormones are produced, several bodily functions can get out of whack. We asked endocrinologist Dr. Byan McIver to talk us through common thyroid disorders and signs you might be suffering from them.

Who is likely to develop a thyroid disorder?

According to the American Thyroid Association, 20 million Americans have thyroid disease, although women are five to eight times more likely to suffer from it than men. Typically, it affects women in their mid-thirties to mid-sixties who have a family history of thyroid problems — although the disorder isn't strictly genetic.

Hyperthyroidism, or overactive thyroid

"When there's too much thyroid hormone, it's like a conductor has gone a little crazy, and the whole music goes into dissonance," McIver explains, describing the condition of hyperthyroidism. This can cause rapid heartbeat, restlessness, difficulty focusing, an overactive bowel — symptoms akin to how you feel if you've had too much coffee.

Hypothyroidism, or underactive thyroid

The most common thyroid condition, hypothyroidism, occurs when the thyroid isn't producing enough hormones. This can cause patients to feel lethargic, depressed, experience constipation and rapid weight gain. It can also interfere with the menstrual cycle, which can cause issues with infertility. If you're having trouble getting pregnant, you might consider getting your thyroid tested to see if that's the culprit, says McIver.

Nodular thyroid disease

Nodules on or inside the thyroid are actually very common — occuring in half of women over the age of 50, McIver explains. Depending on the size of the nodule, you can feel it or even see it protruding from your neck. As it grows, it can lead you to develop a raspy voice or have difficulty swallowing. Luckily, the majority are benign, but on occasion they are cancerous.

Diagnosis and treatment

If you're experiencing any of the aforementioned symptoms, let your doctor know, McIver recommends. They can refer you to an endocrinologist who can diagnose the condition by testing the levels of the thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) through a simple blood test.

Hypothyroidism is treated with thyroid hormone replacement therapy; hyperthyroidism, with medications that help slow down the thyroid, or via removal of the thyroid through radioactive iodine or surgery.

A doctor can diagnose thyroid nodules with an ultrasound or genetic testing and then biopsy it. According to McIver, thyroid cancer has a very good prognosis.

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EAGLES FANS SHOULD THANK HOWIE ROSEMAN FOR SUPER BOWL TEAM

GLEN MACNOW

OPINION

Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades. @realglenmacnow

Late in Sunday's 38-7 blowout over Minnesota, after the TV cameras showed celebrity fans Bradley Cooper and Charles Barkley cheering, just before they found Eagles owner Jeff Lurie clumsily dancing on the field, they panned to a skinny guy in the back of his luxury box — standing alone, too lost in the action to notice he was on TV.

Fidgety and unassuming as he looked, Howie Roseman deserved a moment of celebration as the real star power of this NFC title game. He built the machine that roared over the NFC, crushed the "Skol" out of the Vikings and now flies on to challenge the Evil Empire in Super Bowl LII.

This Eagles roster boasts 25 players — all recruited or drafted by Roseman — who were not on last season's 7-9 club. Sunday night, it seemed each one of them played a major role.

Retread CB Patrick Robinson turned the game early with a snaking 50-yard interception return for the Eagles first TD. That pickoff was created by DE Chris Long — another Roseman recruit — who bashed QB Case Keenum's arm just as he threw.

Long also recovered a fumble after Keenum was strip-sacked by Derek Barnett, this year's first-round draft pick.

Roseman added three new RBs this season, all at affordable salaries. LeGarrette Blount, Jay Ajayi and Corey Clement combined for 26 carries and 114 yards against a Vikings defense that had been compared to the '85 Bears. The highlight was the Blount-force 11-yard TD run in the 2nd quarter that left four Vikings lying dazed on the field.

Roseman retooled the receiving corps last offseason, and it paid off Sunday night as Alshon Jeffery scored two TDs and Torey Smith added another. Jeffery came here on a one-year value deal and has since re-upped for another four. Smith, frankly, has been a disappointment most of the season, but is a respected part of the player's leadership team.

Oh, and let's not forget Nick Foles — whom Roseman brought home to back up young QB Carson Wentz. Every Eagles fan fretted when Foles had to take over as starter. But Nicky Six has found his groove after a few weeks of practice. He looked like the 2013 Foles Sunday night.

Roseman must take particular pride in Foles' resurrection. It was just three years ago that Howie lost a public power struggle to Chip Kelly and was banished to the broom closet. He's been mocked by both fans and insiders as "not a football guy." But he stuck it out. And when Kelly blew up both the franchise and his own job, there was Roseman, waiting for Lurie to tap him on the shoulder to rescue his football team. Now he's the NFL Executive of the Year.

To Lurie's credit, he insisted that Roseman add a personnel wiz. And Joe Douglas — whose title is vice-president of personnel — has his handprints on many of this year's best moves. There was concern in recent weeks that Douglas might be lured to another franchise looking for a sharp GM, but indications now are that he'll be back for 2018.

And so here we are, the improbable 15-3 Eagles headed to the Super Bowl far quicker than anyone's timetable would have projected.

Howie Roseman delivered a Super Bowl berth well ahead of schedule. GETTY IMAGES

And while no fan is going to buy a Howie Roseman jersey to show his or her passion, hey, at least give the guy the respect he deserves.

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Don't be surprised if you see people with dog masks all across the city as Super Sunday approaches in two weeks. GETTY IMAGES

Underdog Eagles represent underdog city —and it's perfect

The Eagles are exactly what the city of Philadelphia needs.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

The Eagles are taking their dog masks to Minnesota.

"It's in my bag," Eagles tackle Lane Johnson said, widely credited with starting the dog mask phenomenon. "It's definitely going."

With their blowout 38-7 win Sunday over the Vikings, the Eagles did more than clinch a trip to face the Patriots in Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis. They encapsulated the feeling of every Philadelphian watching the game at home, celebrating on Broad Street or savoring victory at the Linc. They brought the fictional story of Philly boxer Rocky Balboa to life, beating the odds, the doubters and overcoming some seemingly insurmountable losses to injury.

"If you told me before September," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie started, "'No you're not going to have Jason Peters, you're not going to have Darren Sproles, you're not going to have Jordan Hicks, you're eventually not going to have Carson Wentz, — oh, by the way, your field goal kicker, you're not going to have him either – it's a lot of body blows at that point. If you had said that, I would have told you, 'No I don't think we'll make the playoffs.'"

But just like the hard-working blue-collar fans that make Philadelphia such a fierce town, the Eagles did on the football field what the Delaware Valley prides itself in doing every single day. Overcoming.

"I think winning games in general starts inside your head first," Johnson said. "It sounds cliche, but the mentality of a successful athlete is believing in yourself and your teammates. I am just glad to be in the Super Bowl. It's anybody's game. The Patriots have been there for a long time they need to be dethroned."

The Eagles have opened as underdogs again, ranging from five to seven point recipients according to several betting outlets. It's nothing new.

"Somehow I'm not surprised," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said upon learning the Eagles were not favored in the Super Bowl. "I think it's great. I always try to root for underdogs, so I think if we can – it comes with an understanding that this is a very proud group of players and coaches and you tell them no one thinks you're going to win, you're not good enough. With all the hard work and success they've had, the best record in the NFL and all of that, and you tell them that. It doesn't register."

Philadelphia, of course, was the first ever No. 1 seed no to be favored at home against a 6-seed. They beat the Falcons in a defensive struggle 15-10. They were not favored last Sunday either, but they won by 31 points.

"We've been underdogs for the last couple of weeks, and our fans feel that and they understand that," head coach Doug Pederson said. "We're excited to have won these last two games, obviously. We hope to have the entire Eagles nation up in Minneapolis."

Flights to the Super Bowl city are expensive and so are hotel rooms — and tickets are in very short supply. But you can bet that Eagles fans will vastly out-number Patriots fans in the twin cities next week. And should they raise the Lombardi trophy, their homecoming will be received by a parade of millions. Underdogs, every one of them.

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And LOZENGES
We Pickup
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DIVORCE
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Uncontested, No-Fault, Mutual Consent
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JOBS

General Help Wanted

Barber Institute - Maintenance Personnel

Full Time and Part Time Maintenance personnel needed to assist in daily maintenance, upkeep and preventive work for Residential facilities throughout the Greater Philadelphia and surrounding areas. Requires experience with all facets of interior/exterior home repair. Will work at least 40 hours per week including the possibility of on-call emergency workloads. Qualifications include high school diploma or equivalent, valid driver's license, and eligibility for Acts 33/34 Clearances. Excellent employee benefit package. $13.00/hr. If you need an accommodation to apply, please contact **Human Resources at (215) 871-0731. EOE**

Send a resume to: QDevore@barberinstitute.org

Job Coach

Full and Part Time openings for a Job Coach, who provides onsite support and training to consumers in community integrated employment. The responsibilities for this position will include following through with the regularly scheduled activities, routines and rhythms for the job site. 11.50hr. + mileage. Days and Hours will vary depending upon the work schedule of the individual. High school diploma/ GED required. Prefer experience working with people with developmental disabilities. Valid driver's license, auto insurance, auto registration & access to reliable transportation is required.

Send resumes to **GALEWILLIAMS@barberinstitute.org**

HomeCare Associates
A worker-owned company

HIRING NOW
Home Care Associates, a worker owned company, is looking for caring, reliable women and men to employ as Home Health Aides/Attendants.

We are seeking to hire people with or without experience for part time positions.

Our starting payrate is $12/hr.

To be employed you must be able to pass a criminal background check, child abuse clearance and drug screen.

Interested candidates can call 267-238-3211,
Apply in person at our office located at:
1500 Walnut Street, Suite 1000.
or online at
www.homecareassociatespa.com

DRIVER/PARATRANSIT
Abington, PA

Up to $14/HOUR

- Experience preferred or will train
- PA license • Good MVR
- At least 21 years old
- Location is accessible to public transportation

CALL
215-517-7938

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TTC TOTAL TRANSPORTATION CORP.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
AND BUS ATTENDANTS WANTED

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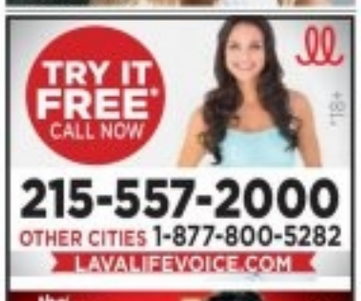
- Competitive Wages
- Benefits Package
- Benefit Rate and Non-Benefit Rate
- Training Available to New Drivers
- Classes Forming Now
- $500 SIGN-ON BONUS FOR DRIVERS WITH CURRENT CREDENTIALS

Please Apply in Person
Monday through Friday
9:00am to 3:00pm
3101 Orthodox Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215-383-0470

ENTERTAINMENT



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House For Sale
$549.14 a month
3 Bedrooms, Excellent condition
Nick's Real Estate
(215) 425-3500

WE BUY UGLY HOUSES.®
HOMEVESTORS®
AMERICA'S #1 HOME BUYER
1-800-301-3223

RENT TO OWN - EAST OAK LANE

2090 W 65TH STREET - 3 BEDROOM
NEW KITCHEN, FENCED IN BACKYARD,
FINISHED BASEMENT: $850 MONTH

7347 N 20TH STREET – JACUZZI,
3 BEDROOMS, GRANITE KITCHEN,
NEW STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES,
FINISHED BASEMENT, GARAGE: $1250 MONTH

BOTH RENT TO OWN-VETERANS
LITTLE TO NO MONEY NEEDED

See videos of the Homes on YOUTUBE @ flippingphilly
215-941-3224

LEGAL NOTICES

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The General public is hereby intimated that the House No./Building No. R.D.C 114, Raj Nagar is an allottee Mrs. Mabreen Simon, W/O Mr. S.D. Simon, who died on 29/05/2015 and due to this reason, Mr. Surender David Simon S/O Hamilton Simon wants to mutate his name on this House No/Building No. mentioned above.

That pertaining to this, if any person has an objection of any kind, then after the publication of this notification, within the period of 15 days the said objection may kindly be filed before the office concerned, otherwise as per the procedure of corporation concerned, the name of Mr. Surender David Simon S/O Mr. Hamilton Simon name shall be mutated on the records in place of the name of Mrs. Mabreen Simon., W/O Mr. S.D. Simon.

Under Secretary
Ghaziabad Development Authority
Ghaziabad, UP. India.

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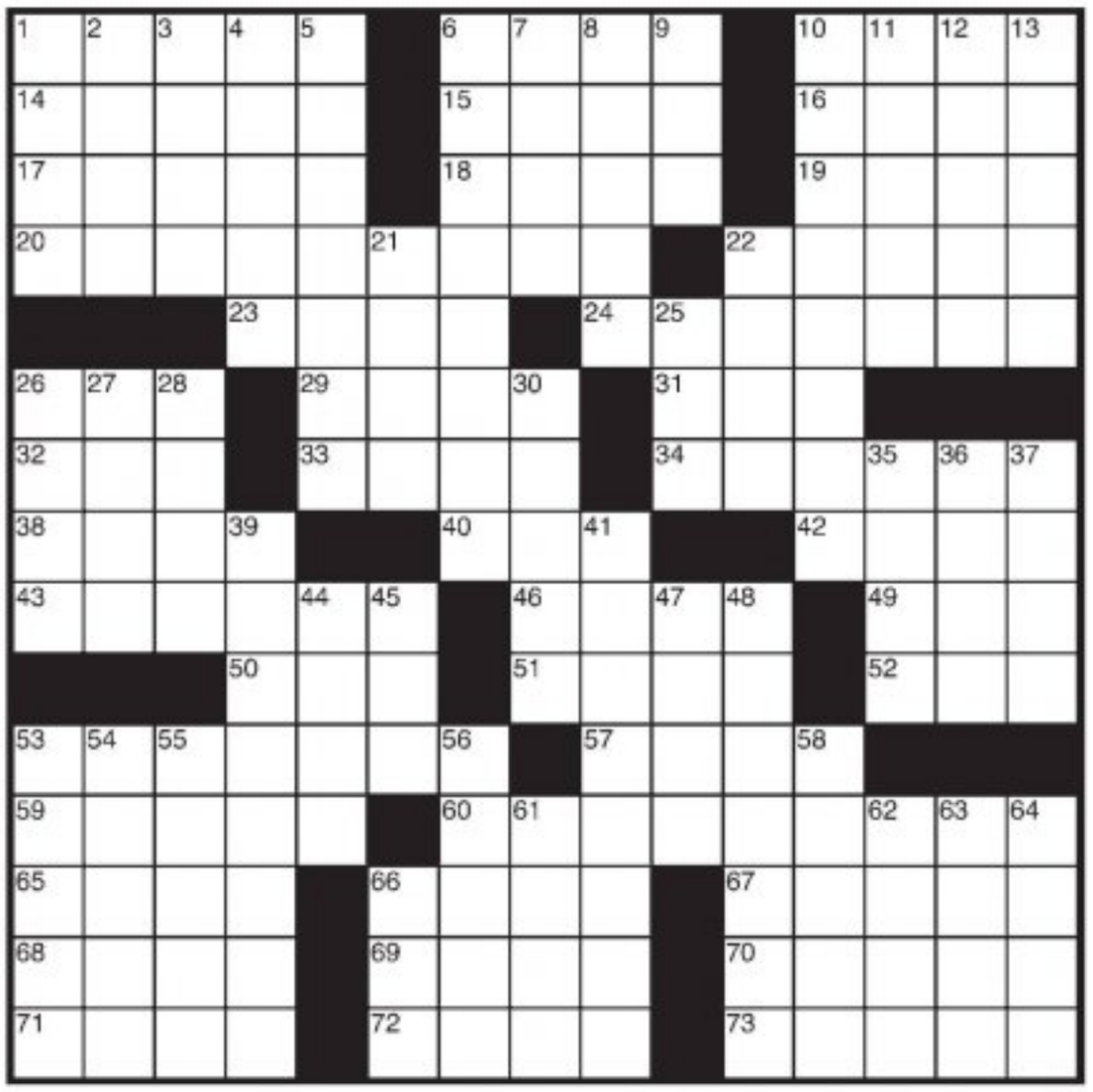
metro.us/games

metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Scoundrel
6 Angler's wish
10 Bud holder
14 James Whitcomb –
15 Line on a map
16 Dash
17 Harebrained
18 Lira successor
19 Chase away
20 Clean without water
22 Jousting weapon
23 Marinate
24 Party animal
26 Cattle call
29 "Mona –"
31 Country addr.
32 Search engine find
33 Spruce
34 Every July
38 Decorates a cake
40 Opposite of "paleo"
42 "Road" pictures name
43 Imp
46 Worn-down pencils
49 Bilko's rank
50 Shout of surprise
51 Fermi split it
52 Yes, in Kyoto
53 Quad antecedents
57 Disaster film?
59 Seraglio
60 Wrestling holds
65 Flapjack chain
66 – -a-brac
67 Moon goddess
68 Ice-cream treat
69 Viking letter
70 Legally impede
71 Give careful attention to
72 Zonked out
73 Takes a breather

Down
1 Mr. Kristofferson
2 1492 caravel
3 Turing or Alda
4 Peddles
5 Hook fastener
6 Puts on new shoes (2 wds.)
7 Debtor's letters
8 Bakery dainties
9 Tokyo, once
10 Long porch (var.)
11 Moving right –
12 Hollandaise
13 PC key
21 Hideout
22 Carbon-based forms
25 Kind of humor
26 California's – Woods
27 Seal predator
28 Cheers for Manolete
30 Booster rocket
35 – Hashanah
36 Links org.
37 Sherpa's sighting
39 Bridge need
41 Stared down
44 Beg pardon!
45 London lav
47 Dauntless
48 Burn without flame
53 – kebab
54Lake near Reno
55 Carve a canyon
56 Low grower
58 Social asset
61 One, to Helmut
62 Household members
63 Muscle cramp
64 Exhausts
66 Half a bikini



metro.us/sudoku

easy

8	9	5						
				4			7	8
		1	5	8	2		6	
4					6			
2		9				1		5
			4					6
	1		9	5	8	4		
9	8			7				
						9	8	7

hard

	6				7			
		3	6	1		5	2	4
		1		4				
		4					5	
6		9	7		1	2		3
	2					7		
				7		1		
5	1	7		8	4	9		
			1				3	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You'll be tempted to make rash decisions or take an unpredictable path. If you focus more on self-improvement, you will bypass criticism and complaints.

Taurus Look for opportunities, but don't take action hastily. Some investing will help keep you out of financial crisis. A partnership will have both a negative and positive influence.

Gemini Emotional mistakes can be avoided if you are practical. Levelheaded decisions will give you a clear passage to pursue worthwhile goals. Personal growth is encouraged.

Cancer The key to your success will be getting along and keeping the peace in order to avoid an emotional dispute or meltdown. Upbeat, positive choices are recommended.

Leo Alter the way you live, but don't overspend or go into debt trying to outdo your neighbors or friends. A minimalist lifestyle will help lower your stress.

Virgo A persuasive offer will not be as awesome as you anticipate. Use your intelligence and gather knowledge that will help you take care of business on your own.

Libra An unexpected change will leave you wondering what to do next. Don't act in haste. Wait for emotions to soften. Offer comfort, but don't meddle or interfere.

Scorpio Keep your emotions well hidden. Listen carefully and reveal little. If you show your vulnerability, you will end up being taken for granted. Protect your heart and feelings.

Sagittarius Good times are heading your way. Personal change will help point you in the right direction, and a better understanding of what you want to achieve will be yours.

Capricorn An emotional stalemate will occur if you decide to battle someone who doesn't share your opinion or want to make the same changes as you. Be prepared to walk away.

Aquarius Do what feels right and works best for you. Rely on experience to guide you into the future. Accept the inevitable and reject bullies and manipulators.

Pisces Making a change for the wrong reason can be costly. Do your homework and don't rely on what someone else tells you. Follow your own path. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	E	M	I	■	M	O	P	U	P	■	V	I	N	E
P	L	A	N	■	O	M	E	G	A	■	A	S	E	A
A	S	I	F	■	L	I	G	H	T	B	U	L	B	S
■	■	■	L	I	L	T	S	■	C	A	N	A	R	Y
■	S	H	A	M	U	S	■	C	H	A	T	■	■	■
S	W	A	M	P	S	■	W	O	E	■	E	B	A	Y
N	I	N	E	■	K	N	O	W	S	■	D	O	V	E
A	L	S	■	■	A	R	E	■	■	■	W	I	G	■
F	L	O	E	■	B	I	D	D	Y	■	S	L	A	G
U	S	M	C	■	I	V	Y	■	O	C	T	E	T	S
■	■	■	L	A	Z	E	■	A	D	H	E	R	E	■
S	A	L	I	V	A	■	F	L	E	E	T	■	■	■
P	E	P	P	E	R	M	I	L	L	■	S	U	E	T
U	R	N	S	■	R	E	N	E	E	■	O	F	N	O
D	O	S	E	■	E	M	E	N	D	■	N	O	S	E

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Certified Audit CAC of Circulations

DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication? Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication • Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.

Transportation and compensation up to $7,500 for time and travel may be available.

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For more information, call toll-free 866-264-4545 or visit HRITrials.com

Are you a postmenopausal woman concerned about low libido?

If so, you could be eligible to participate in a clinical trial to evaluate an investigational medication consisting of a daily intravaginal insert for 28 weeks. You will have to undergo different tests at each visit and complete various questionnaires throughout the study.

To be eligible, you must:

1. Be a postmenopausal woman aged between 40 and 80 years;
2. Meet the other criteria of the clinical study.

A financial compensation up to $350 may be provided upon completion of the study.

For more information or to see if you qualify, please communicate with Hassman Research Institute at **866-230-4185**.

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

This trial is sponsored by Endoceutics™ and has been reviewed by an independent Ethics Committee.

Are you an adult living with severe kidney impairment?

If so, **Hassman Research Institute** is asking you to call today about participating in our research study.

Qualified study participants must:

- Be 18 to 75 years old with severe kidney impairment
- Not be on dialysis
- Be available for a 5-night stay in our clinic

There is no charge to participate and insurance is not needed. This study is for research purposes only and not intended to treat or cure any medical condition.

Transportation and compensation up to $1,725 for time and travel may be available.

Call today to see if you qualify.

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For more information, call toll-free

1-866-230-4185

or visit HRITrials.com